



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Assembly Bill 831	Assembly Amendment 1
Memo published: March 4, 2002	
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Current law prohibits the use of federal funds passing through the State Treasury and state and local funds for a grant, subsidy or other funding that directly or indirectly involves pregnancy programs, projects or services, if the program, project or service using such funds provides abortion services, promotes, encourages or counsels in favor of abortion services. Current law also prohibits payment of those funds to a pregnancy program, project or service that makes abortion referrals when it is not medically necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman. These prohibitions are enforced to the extent that applying them does not result in the loss of federal funding.

Assembly Bill 831 expands the prohibition on the payment of public funds to an organization that engages in abortion-related activities. The bill applies the prohibition on abortion-related activities to all public funds with the exception of Medical Assistance and BadgerCare. The bill specifies that the prohibition does not apply in cases of sexual assault or incest or health, or where the abortion is necessary to save the life of the woman or prevent grave, long-lasting physical health damage.

The bill prohibits payment of public funds to an organization that is affiliated with an organization that engages in abortion-related activities or that receives funding from an organization that engages in abortion-related activities. The bill expands the definition of abortion-related activities to specifically include acting to assist women to obtain abortions, acting to increase the availability or accessibility of abortions for family planning purposes, lobbying for legislation to increase the availability of abortion, providing speakers to promote the use of abortion, paying dues to a group that advocates abortion, using legal action to make abortion available, and developing or disseminating materials advocating abortion.

Assembly Amendment 1 provides that the funding prohibitions of the bill only apply to the extent that the application of the restrictions does not result in a loss of national accreditation for a medical school or medical residency program in Wisconsin.

Assembly Amendment 1 was recommended for adoption by a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 0; and the bill, as amended, was recommended for passage by a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 1; on February 27, 2002, by the Assembly Committee on Government Operations.

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